

REMARKS

Consistent with the Notice, Applicants have submitted the corrected section of the non-compliant Amendment, *i.e.*, the entire "Amendments to the claims" section of Applicants' Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on September 1, 2004. The remaining portions of Applicants' September 1, 2004 Amendment are incorporated herein by reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that the deficiencies noted with respect to the proper status identifier of claim 3 and claims 20-23 have been addressed and rendered compliant with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Applicants submit that all claims under consideration are in condition for allowance for all the reasons discussed in Applicants' Amendment filed September 1, 2004. Early notification of a favorable consideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any issues are outstanding, Applicants would appreciate the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel to resolve such issues in an expeditious manner and place the application in condition for allowance.

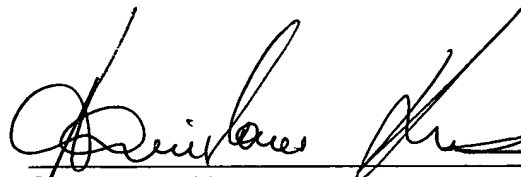
It is believed that no additional fee is due in connection with this filing. However, in the even that any other fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-026.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 22, 2004
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By:


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